

BOATING SAFETY FACTS

- Most boating injuries are caused by the driver of the boat rather than the boat, equipment, or weather.
- Approximately 79% of boating-related deaths occur on inland waters, such as rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.
- Drowning continues to be the # 1 cause of deaths in boating accidents. Approximately 80% of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets. Less than 23% of boaters in all boating groups wear life jackets. More than 60% of boating fatalities result from capsizing, falling overboard, or flooding/swamping.
- Fatality rates decrease significantly when a boater has some boater education. Eighty-eight percent of fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had not taken a boater education course.
- Open motorboats have the highest overall number of fatalities (approximately half).
- Canoes and kayaks have high numbers of fatalities due to drowning. Personal watercraft (PWCs) have a relatively high fatality rate due to trauma.
- Roughly one-third of recreational fatalities occur while boaters are engaged in fishing activities. A smaller number die while hunting from a boat.

Boating Safety Tips

While most boating injuries are caused by the driver of the boat rather than the equipment problems, weather, or environment, by following the safety tips below will help keep your boating activity safe and fun.

- Wear a life jacket-It's your life, Preserve it!
- Take a Safe Boating Class-It can save your life! [For a class in your area, call 1-888-362-2822]
- Keep your boat maintained
- Install/test a Carbon Monoxide alarm-contact boat company
- Keep aboard your boat: A ship-to-shore radio, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, lifejackets, etc.
- Never drink alcohol or use drugs while operating a boat.
- Drink plenty of water or hydration drinks and energy food, such as fruit or energy bars.
- Wear a hat, sunglasses, and UV protective clothing
- Wear waterproof/sweat-proof UVA and UVB sunscreen
- Wear lipscreen with at least SPF 15

